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IMMIGRATION

Trump slurs Haitians, Africans

In talks on DACA recipients' future, he vulgarly denigrates countries

By Julie Hirschfeld Davis and Sheryl Gay Stolberg
The New York Times

WASHINGTON » President Donald Trump on Thursday balked at an immigration deal that would include protections for people from Haiti and some nations in Africa, demanding to know at a White House meeting why he should accept immigrants from "shithole countries" rather than people from places like Norway, according to people with direct knowledge of the conversation.

Trump's remarks, the latest example of his penchant for racially tinged remarks denigrating immigrants, left members of Congress from both parties attending the meeting in the Cabinet Room alarmed and mystified. He made them during a discussion of an emerging bipartisan deal to give legal status to immigrants illegally brought to the United States as children, the people said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the meeting.

When Trump heard that Haitians were among those who would benefit from the proposed deal, he asked whether they could be left out of the plan, asking, "Why do we want people from Haiti here?"

The president's vulgar language on a delicate issue left the fate of the broader immigration debate in limbo

TRUMP » PAGE 5

President Trump's comments during a White House meeting on immigration policy have raised a furor. The future of DACA recipients was being discussed.

EVAN VUCCI THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ENVIRONMENT

DISCOVERY OF THIS SEA SNAKE COULD MEAN BIG TROUBLE FOR SEA LIONS

Worldly serpent is rare here and has scientists on alert

By Erika I. Ritchie
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@lagunaini on Twitter

LAGUNA BEACH » Officials from the Pacific Marine Mammal Center on Thursday joined scientists from the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles to announce the discovery in Newport Beach of a rare, venomous yellow-bellied sea snake.

The 25-inch-long adult female snake, found by a beachgoer who nearly tripped over it near the 18th Street lifeguard tower on Tuesday, has the marine mammal rescue center assessing what it could mean for sea lion strandings this year.

Scientists at the Los Angeles museum are intrigued but a bit concerned.

"The discovery of the rare pelagic snake is only the fifth ever recorded in the history of California," said Greg Pauly, associate curator of herpetology at the museum. "But it is the first discovered outside an El Niño year."

Most recently the snake species — which is typically found only in tropical waters and never comes ashore — was discovered on a beach in Coronado in January 2016.

Another one was found in December 2015 at Bolsa Chica State Beach, and another on Silver Strand Beach in Oxnard in October 2015.

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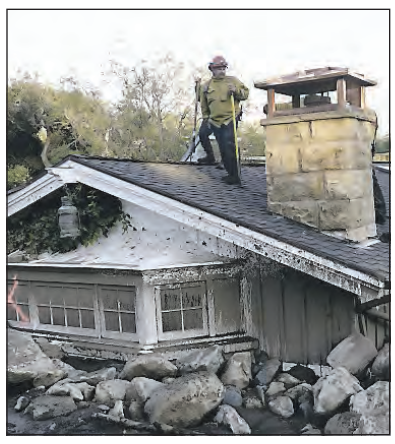
PHOTOS BY KEVIN SULLIVAN — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Top, a rare yellow-bellied sea snake found in Newport Beach. Above, Hot Toddy, a California sea lion that has been nursed back to health over the last 10 months, plays next to a pool at the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach on Wednesday.

17 DEAD, 8 MISSING



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A firefighter stands on the roof of a house submerged in mud and rocks on Wednesday in Montecito.

Mud already flowing when phone alerts were sent out

Earlier warnings came in other forms; officials feared 'cry wolf' effect

By Michael Balsamo
The Associated Press

Many residents in the area hit hardest by this week's deadly mudslides did not heed warnings for hours and days by emergency officials encouraging them to evacuate their homes — and then received cellphone alerts of imminent slides when the massive streams of debris were already heading toward them or had already hit their neighborhoods.

Wireless emergency alerts are cellphone messages sent to everyone in a region, similar to the Amber alerts that are sent to cellphone users in specific areas when authorities are trying to find missing children.

The alert sent by Santa Barbara County officials to all those in mandatory and voluntary evacuation areas went out around 3:50 a.m. Tuesday, Rob Lewin, the county's emergency management director, said Thursday. It followed a cellphone alert sent by the National Weather Service, he said.

MUDSLIDES » PAGE 13

HEALTH CARE

EVAN VUCCI — AP FILE PHOTO

Seema Verma and President Trump will give states the option to have Medicaid recipients find jobs or fill other roles.

White House rule may mean Medicaid recipients go to work

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » Rewriting the rules on health care for the poor, the Trump administration said Thursday it will allow states to require "able-bodied" Medicaid recipients to work, a hotly debated first in the program's half-century history.

Seema Verma, head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said requiring work or community involvement can make a positive difference in people's lives and in their health. The goal is to help people move from public assistance into jobs that provide health insurance. "We see people moving off of Medicaid as a good

MEDICAID » PAGE 2

INSIDE

Campus returns to normal after gunfire incident
Cal State San Bernardino lessons resumed Thursday while many, including the university's president, recounted being kept in classrooms as police investigated. NEWS 6

Cost of filling up to go up

THINKSTOCK.COM

Gas prices this year are expected to climb, becoming the highest they've been since 2014. BUSINESS ON NEWS 14

New coach brings golden guidance to the Kings
The Kings are faring well — and winning — under first-year coach John Stevens, who fosters hard work amid fun. SPORTS